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ordinary objectives, if it is desired to measure the angular distance between two lines in parts of the spectrum which differ greatly in color, the focus must be adjusted for each line, otherwise the observation will be affected by error of parallax; but the adjustment of focus introduces another source of error in the irregularities of the eye-piece slide, and moreover, if the light is to pass through the prism in parallel rays, the change of focus must be divided between the observing telescope and the collimator. (In certain special forms of apparatus this is effected automatically.) With objectives properly made of Jena glass, however, the chromatic aberration is so small that all except the extreme parts of the spectrum have practically the same focus, and no adjustment is required, an advantage which adds greatly to the convenience as well as to the accuracy of the observations. The superiority of Jena glass objectives for usual telescopic work has been pointed out by Dr. Hastings, and for spectroscopic work the advantages are even more manifest. The images of bright objects with such a telescope are nearly free from false color, resembling the images formed by a reflector, and have almost an abnormal appearance to an eye accustomed to the ordinary form of refractor. J. E. K.

OBSERVATORY FOR NAPA COLLEGE.

The Trustees of Napa College have determined to erect an observatory for the use of the students and for general purposes, and intend to purchase a refractor of seven or eight inches aperture shortly.

POST-OFFICE AT MOUNT HAMILTON.

A post-office has been established at Mount Hamilton, and Mr. S. W. BURNHAM (in addition to his more strictly astronomical honors) has been appointed to be United States Postmaster. It is requested that in future all letters and parcels sent by mail should be addressed to "The Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California, U. S. A." Money orders should be made payable at the post-office of San José. Telegrams from points in the United States should also be addressed to San José. Cable telegrams, however, should be sent to "Astronomer, San Francisco." Parcels from abroad may be dispatched through the agents of the Smithsonian Institution (free of cost).

E. S. H.

OCCULTATION OF *MARS* BY THE MOON, 1890, APRIL 8.

On the morning of Wednesday, April 9 (civil date), *Mars* was occulted by the bright limb of the moon, shortly after sunrise. The occultation was observed by Messrs. Holden and Keeler with the thirty-six-inch equatorial and by Professor Schaeberle with the twelve-inch. From 14^h onwards the images had been very unsteady (weight 1) owing to a high wind; but just at the moment of the disappearance of the planet the seeing was average (weight 3). With the large telescope the observations were made by E. S. H., and noted on Chron. 1667 by J. E. K. The observed times reduced to Pacific standard time (Greenwich m. t. *minus* 8^h) were:

	h.	m.	s.	
1890, April 8	17	23	.... ;	sun rises.
	17	48	07.4 ;	Contact I.
	17	48	39·7 ;	Contact II.

Professor Schaeberle's observations were:

17	48	5·9 ;	Contact I.
17	48	39·5 ;	Contact II.

With the large telescope it was noted that the point of first contact on *Mars* was near to the preceding end of *Mare Sirenum. Nix Olympica* was visible. The unusual illumination of the sky, caused by the daylight and by the proximity of the moon, gave to the red parts of *Mars* a decidedly smoky appearance, quite different from the more vivid color under ordinary conditions. There was no shade on *Mars* parallel to the limb of the moon at any time, such as has been observed (here and elsewhere) at occultations of *Jupiter*. The limb of *Mars* suffered no distortion. Professor Schaeberle's notes follow:

"*Mars* appeared dark red, tinged with brown. The moon's surface was very much brighter than that of *Mars* and decidedly yellow. Not the slightest distortion of the planet's outline could be detected."

E. S. H., J. M. S., J. E. K.

OCCULTATION (RE-APPEARANCE) OF *JAPETUS*, 1890, APRIL 9.

Dr. Marth, in his indispensable "Ephemerides of the Satellites of *Saturn*," pointed out that on April 9, *Japetus*, the VIII Satellite of *Saturn*, would reappear from its occultation by the ball of the planet within the space between the gauze-ring and the planet, and after moving across this space would again be occulted by the ring, and would again reappear beyond the bright ring. Only the first part of this interesting phenomenon was observable at Mount Hamilton. Preparations to observe it were made by Mr. Keeler and